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168 NORTH PROSPECT AVENUE, MADISON, WISCONSIN

THE PIGEON. By Wendell Mitchell Levi. Printed at Columbia, S. C., 1941: 8 x 11 in., xxxii + 512 pp. (profusely illustrated). With preface by Dr. Oscar Riddle. Published by the author at Sumter, S. C. \$10.00.

Persons interested in wild birds from the standpoint of field study or merely love of the outdoors are apt to have little use for wild birds in captivity or for those which have been domesticated. A bird is a bird, however, no matter where it is or how much it may have been altered by generations of breeding under man's care and direction. For this reason, serious students of bird biology will recognize that the way birds react under any conditions may contribute enlightenment on their behavior, variation, physiology, and characters in the wild.

The ordinary book on domesticated birds deals almost entirely with empirical details of care and management and pays little attention to the underlying principles involved. Levi's book, "The Pigeon," however, is not an ordinary book. It does not deal so much with details of the breeds and their "standards" as have numerous works in the past, but no previous book on pigeons has treated so comprehensively the scientific aspects of the genetics, physiology, and behavior. In these fields the coverage is surprisingly thorough, and the bibliographic references will prove of the greatest value to anyone desirous of pursuing the subjects further. The discussion of such subjects as the sex ratio, mortality, homing, and the like should prove especially pertinent to students of bird ecology.

Other parts of the book will be of more interest to pigeon raisers and fanciers, but they also contain much of more general interest. Such chapters are, of course, those which deal with the differentiation and breeds, the anatomy, care and feeding, and diseases and their control. In short, this is a book which any bird student would do well to have at hand for reference.—Leon J. Cole.